A

FORM OF

PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

TO ALMIGHTY GOD, FOR THE INESTIMABLE BLESSINGS OF RELIGIOUS AND CIVIL LIBERTY; TO BE USED ON THE OCCASION OF CELEBRATING THE

CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

JULY 4TH, 1876.

SET FORTH FOR USE IN THE

Protestant Episcopal Church,

IN THE

DIOCESE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

BY THE

RT. REV. WM. BACON STEVENS D.D., LL.D.,

Bishop of the Diocese of Pennsylvania.

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NOTICE.

In setting forth this "Form of Prayer, &c," and thus not uniting with many of my Brethren who have jointly issued a more elaborate one; I beg to say to my Diocese, that the present form is very nearly that prepared by the Rev. Wm. Smith, D.D., the first Provost of the University of Pennsylvania, the author of the Preface to our Book of Common Prayer. This form was temporarily adopted by the Fathers of this Church nearly one hundred years ago, and on the first occasion afterwards of publicly thanking Almighty God for the inestimable blessings of religious and civil Liberty, was used by Bishop (then Dr.) White in Christ Church, Philadelphia. By issuing, with slight modifications, the old form, it was felt that greater historic interest would attach to the service, and that, especially in this Diocese, it would be eminently appropriate and becoming. Two special collects prepared principally by one of our most revered Bishops have been added, bringing the service into accord with this Centennial Celebration.

WILLIAM BACON STEVENS.

A FORM OF SERVICE

FOR THE

FOURTH OF JULY, 1876.

¶ *This service may be used on the preceding or succeeding Sunday.*
¶ *The service shall be as usual except where it is hereby otherwise appointed.*
¶ *Among the opening sentences shall be one or more of the following:*

THE Eternal God is thy refuge, underneath are the everlasting arms. *Deut.* xxxiii. 27.

Israel shall then dwell in safety alone; the fountain of Jacob shall be upon the land of corn and wine, also his heavens shall drop down dew.

Happy art thou, O Israel: who is like unto thee, O people saved by the Lord, the shield of thy help, and who is the sword of thy excellency. *Deut.* xxxiii. 28, 29.

The Lord hath been mindful of us: He will bless us; He will bless them that fear the Lord both small and great. *Psalm* cxv. 12, 13.

O that men would praise the Lord for his goodness; and for His wonderful works to the children of men. *Psalm* cvii. 15.

¶ *Instead of the Venite may be said or sung this Canticle:*

MY song shall be always of the loving kindness of the Lord; with my mouth will I ever be showing thy truth from one generation to another. *Psalm* lxxxix. 1.

The merciful and gracious Lord hath so done his marvelous works, that they ought to be had in remembrance. *Psalm* cxi. 4.

Who can express the noble acts of the Lord, or show forth all his praise? *Psalm* cvi. 2.

The works of the Lord are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein. *Psalm* cxi. 2.

He will not alway be chiding; neither keepeth he his anger for ever. *Psalm* ciii. 9.

He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our wickednesses. *Psalm* ciii. 10.

For look how high the heaven is in comparison of the earth; so great is his mercy also toward them that fear him. *Pslam* ciii. 11.

Yea, like as a father pitieth his own children; even so is the Lord merciful unto them that fear him. *Psalm* ciii. 13.

For thou, O God, hast proved us; thou also hast tried us, like as silver is tried. *Psalm* lxvi. 9.

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise thy God, O Sion.

For he hath strengthened the bars of thy gates; he hath blessed thy children within thee.

He maketh peace in thy borders, and filleth thee with the flour of the wheat. *Psalm* cxlvii. 12, 13, 14.

¶ *Then shall be said or sung the* GLORIA PATRI.

¶ *The Proper Psalms shall be one or more of the following:*

Psalm ciii.

Psalm cvii.

Psalm cxliv.

with the *Gloria Patri*, or else the *Gloria in Excelsis.*

¶ *The First Lesson shall be Deut.* viii.

¶ *Then shall be said or sung the* TE DEUM.

¶ *The Second Lesson shall be* 1 *Thess* v. 12–23.

¶ *After the General Thanksgiving shall be said the following:*

O GOD, whose name is excellent in all the earth, and Thy glory above the heavens; who a century ago didst inspire and direct the hearts of the Delegates in Congress to lay the perpetual foundation of peace, liberty and safety; we bless and adore thy Glorious Majesty for this Thy loving kindness and providence.

And we humbly pray that the devout sense of this signal mercy may renew and increase in us a spirit of love and thankfulness to Thee, its only author; a spirit of peaceable submission to the laws and government of this country, and a spirit of fervent zeal for our Holy Religion which Thou hast preserved and secured to us and to our posterity. May we improve these inestimable blessings for the advancement of

religion, liberty and science throughout this land, till the wilderness and solitary place be glad through us, and the desert rejoice and blossom as the rose. This we beg through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

"O Almighty God, who sittest upon the throne judging right; and whose kingdom ruleth over all, we bring Thee this day, our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, as for all our mercies, so especially for Thy gracious dealings with us as a people, from the dawn of our national existence to the present time.

"Marvelous and merciful have been the ways of Thy providence towards us. Thou hast been our bulwark and defense in the hour of peril, our very present help in the day of trouble. From feeble beginnings, Thou hast raised us up to wealth and greatness. Thou hast given us a goodly land, and caused the lines to fall unto us in pleasant places. Thou hast enlarged our borders, prospered our industry, continued to us our free and beneficent institutions, our precious heritage of civil and religious liberty, and permitted us to celebrate this anniversary in a time of peace and tranquillity. And although Thou hast visited our sins with the rod, yet in judgment Thou didst remember mercy, and chasten us less than our iniquities deserved.

"We especially thank Thee, that Thy Church has been so wonderfully sustained and enlarged and strengthened,—that this vine of Thine own planting, has taken such root, and stretched out its boughs unto the sea and its branches unto the river; may it ever flourish under Thy hand, and be watered by the dews of the Holy Ghost, that so it may bring forth the fruits of righteousness and true holiness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

"And now, our Heavenly Father, we beseech Thee to continue Thy loving kindness to Thy servants and to the generations yet for to come. The Lord our God be with us, as He was with our Fathers! Let Him not leave nor forsake us! May the people of this land respond to all Thy goodness by giving due honor to Thy holy name, and to Thy holy Word, and to Thy holy day. Save us from the snares and dangers of prosperity, from pride and vain-glory, from ambition and covetousness, from lawlessness and corruption, from hardness of heart and contempt of Thy Word and commandment. May we honor Thy dear Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, by our unfeigned faith, submission and obedience,—ever remembering, that the nation or kingdom that will not serve Thee, shall

perish. Give to all this people, a spirit of peaceable submission to every ordinance of man for conscience sake; and with a deep sense of their duty towards Thee, grant them a fervent zeal for the truth, and for the advancement of Thy holy religion, that so Thy holy Church may be extended, until thy name shall be known throughout the earth and thy saving health among all nations. All which we beg through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, our most blessed Lord and Saviour. Amen."

¶ *The Collect to be used instead of that for the day :*

ALMIGHTY GOD, Who hast in all ages showed forth Thy power and mercy in the wonderful presevation of Thy Church, and in the protection of every nation and people professing Thy holy and eternal truth and putting their sure trust in Thee; we yield Thee our unfeigned thanks and praise for all Thy mercies to this people; and more especially for that signal and wonderful manifestation of Thy providence, which we commemorate this day: wherefore not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy Name be ascribed all honour and glory, in all Churches of the Saints, from generation to generation, through JESUS CHRIST our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *The Epistle Philippians* iv. 4.

REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS: and again I say, rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things which ye have both learned and received and heard, and seen in Me, do; and the God of peace shall be with you.

¶ *The Gospel St. John* viii. 31–36.

THEN said JESUS to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in My Word, then are ye My disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. They answered Him, We be Abraham's seed, and

were never in bondage to any man: how sayest Thou, Ye shall be made free? JESUS answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. And the servant abideth not in the house forever: but the SON abideth ever. If the SON therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

ORDER OF EXERCISES.

OPENING HYMN.

(1, 3, 4 and 6 verses of Whittier's Hymn).

Sentences, Exhortation and Confession, by.....Rev. Dr. Foggo.

Absolution to Versicles,.....Bishop Howe.

SPECIAL CHANT.

Psalter,..... .....Rev. Dr. R. B. Claxton.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS.

First Lesson, ...Rev. Dr. Morton.

TE DEUM LAUDAMUS.

Second Lesson,..... .....Rev. J. Rodney.

JUBILATE DEO.

Creed,.....(Clergymen from Diocese of Pittsburgh).

Prayer and Special Collect...(Clergymen from Dis. of Cent. Penna.).

Hymn 309,.....Rev. Dr. Foggo.

Sermon, Anthem, Collect and Benediction, by.....Bishop Kerfoot.

HYMN 285.

During the singing of this Hymn the Clergy will retire from the Chancel.